United Nations S/2002/1303

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 November 2002

Original: English

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the eleventh quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 (see annex).

02-71540 (E) 021202

Annex

Eleventh quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Introduction

1. The present report, which is the eleventh[a] submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 September to 30 November 2002.

2. The period under review has been one of intense activity in preparation for the resumption of inspections and monitoring in Iraq following Iraq's statement on 16 September (S/2002/1034, annex) that inspectors could return to Iraq without conditions, the subsequent unanimous adoption, on 8 November, of Security Council resolution 1441 (2002), which provides for a strengthened inspection regime, and Iraq's confirmation on 13 November that it would implement the resolution (S/2002/1242, annex).

Briefings and consultations by the Executive Chairman

3. In the period under review, the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC has continued to provide monthly briefings to the President of the Security Council. He has also kept the Secretary-General and his senior staff informed of the activities of the Commission. Members of the Council sought his comments on the draft resolution on Iraq, which was adopted on 8 November. In Vienna, on 30 September and 1 October, he chaired, with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), discussions with Iraqi counterparts on practical arrangements for the resumption of inspections, and he reported to the Council thereafter. He travelled to Baghdad from 18 to 20 November with the Director General of IAEA for talks with representatives of the Government of Iraq about the resumption of inspections, following the adoption of resolution 1441 (2002). In addition, in the period under review he had talks at the level of government in Würzburg, Germany, Washington, D.C., Moscow, Paris, Nicosia and London. In Paris, he also met with the Foreign Minister of Mexico. In New York, he also provided briefings to visiting ministers, parliamentarians and government officials and gave interviews to the media.

Developments

4. The issue of Iraq was one of the main themes of the general debate at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, which opened in September. In a letter dated 16 September addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2002/1034, annex), the Foreign Minister of Iraq stated that his Government had decided to allow the return of the United Nations weapons inspectors without conditions and that the Iraqi side

was ready to discuss the practical arrangements necessary for the resumption of inspections.

5. Following this declaration, the Executive Chairman and the Director General of IAEA met with an Iraqi team headed by General Amer Al-Sa'adi in Vienna on 30 September and 1 October and examined the practical arrangements required for the resumption of inspections in accordance with the governing Security Council resolutions. At the conclusion of the talks, the Iraqi side provided UNMOVIC and IAEA with the backlog of semi-annual declarations of Iraq's holdings of dual-use equipment and related materials required of it under the terms of Security Council resolution 715 (1991). Directly thereafter, the Executive Chairman and the Director General reported to the Security Council on the outcome of the talks and the considerable area of understandings reached. On 8 October, a joint letter from the Executive Chairman and the Director General was addressed to General Amer Al-Sa'adi, listing the conclusions they had drawn from the Vienna talks and seeking Iraqi confirmation thereof. While Iraq's responses of 10 and 12 October, taken together, did confirm the desired understanding of the majority of practical arrangements, some points were not covered.

6. The Executive Chairman briefed the members of the Security Council on the replies received from Iraq. Subsequently, the terms of the joint UNMOVIC/IAEA letter of 8 October (resolution 1441 (2002), annex) were endorsed by the Security Council and made binding on Iraq through the unanimous adoption of resolution 1441 (2002). That resolution provided a strengthened inspection regime by conferring revised and additional authorities to United Nations weapons inspectors. It also set out time lines for the resumption of inspections in Iraq and the requirement that Iraq make, within 30 days of the date of the resolution, a currently accurate, full and complete declaration of all aspects of its programmes for weapons of mass destruction and the means for their delivery, as well as of programmes claimed to be for non-weapon purposes in the chemical, biological and nuclear fields. It directed that inspections be resumed in Iraq not later than 45 days following the adoption of the resolution and that UNMOVIC update the Council 60 days thereafter. UNMOVIC will also promptly report to the Council if at any time Iraq fails to comply with its obligations.

7. Resolution 1441 (2002) included a demand that Iraq confirm within seven days its intention to comply fully with the resolution. On 13 November, the Foreign Minister of Iraq wrote to the Secretary-General (S/2002/1242, annex) that Iraq would deal with the resolution and welcomed the return of United Nations inspectors.

8. On 17 November, the Executive Chairman and the Director General travelled to Larnaca, Cyprus, the site of the new UNMOVIC/IAEA field office, established under an agreement of 30 October 2002 with the Government of Cyprus. The Cyprus field office will serve as the main logistical support base for inspections in Iraq. It is expected that the field office in Bahrain will be able to be retained as a back-up.

9. On 18 November, the Executive Chairman and the Director General arrived in Baghdad, heading an advance team of about 30 persons from UNMOVIC and IAEA. Discussions were held with senior officials of Iraq on the practical implementation of inspections, in particular resolution 1441 (2002). In parallel, technical and logistical personnel examined the former premises of UNSCOM and IAEA at the

Canal Hotel in Baghdad (henceforth to be known as the Baghdad Ongoing Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Centre (BOMVIC)), and began to restore it to become an effective and secure operational centre for inspection activities in Iraq.

10. In the course of the discussions with senior Iraqi officials on 18 and 19 November, the Executive Chairman and the Director General emphasized the vital importance of the declaration to be submitted by Iraq before 8 December to the two organizations and to the Security Council. They discussed the time lines prescribed by Council resolutions 1284 (1999) and 1441 (2002) and several practical arrangements beyond those examined in Vienna, regarding, for example, the expansion of BOMVIC and the establishment of a field office in Mosul, Iraq.

11. In addition, the Executive Chairman gave the Iraqi delegation a note with questions and comments prepared by UNMOVIC as part of the analysis undertaken of the backlog of semi-annual declarations, which the Iraqi side had handed over in Vienna on 1 October. The Iraqi side promised that it would provide the requested supplementary information and corrections.

12. On 25 November, the Executive Chairman briefed members of the Security Council on the visit to Baghdad.

13. The first team of UNMOVIC inspectors arrived in Iraq on 25 November. This team comprised 11 experts from the Commission's Headquarters in New York covering the three areas (biological, chemical and missile) for which UNMOVIC is responsible. The first inspection is scheduled for 27 November, well in advance of the 45-day time limit set out in resolution 1441 (2002) for the resumption of inspections. This first team will be followed by additional groups of inspectors drawn from the Commission's roster of trained experts. The Commission expects to have around 100 inspectors plus support staff in Iraq by the end of December.

14. On 23 November, the Foreign Minister of Iraq addressed a letter to the Secretary-General setting out the observations of the Government of Iraq on resolution 1441 (2002).

Staffing

15. As at the end of November 2002, UNMOVIC core staff in the Professional grades at Headquarters comprised 73 persons of 29 nationalities, of which 10 were women. After the recent training course in Vienna, there were 267 experts, including inspectors and support staff, on the Commission's roster.

Training

16. As part of its efforts to increase readiness, UNMOVIC has continued to attach high priority to the training of staff and potential staff.

17. UNMOVIC conducted its sixth basic training course in Vienna from 7 October to 8 November with specialized training in Austria, Germany and Sweden for 54 selected experts, including some new staff from Headquarters. A seventh basic training course is planned to start in January 2003.

18. From 2 to 13 September, with the support of the Government of China, UNMOVIC conducted the third advanced chemical course in Beijing for 15 experts from its roster to further develop practical inspection skills.

19. An enhanced chemical training course was held in New York, from 18 to 22 November, for experts from the roster and from Headquarters on the inspection and monitoring of dual-use chemical items and capabilities in Iraq.

20. The Commission is grateful to those Member States that have supported the training activities.

Other activities

21. Work has continued on the compilation of clusters of unresolved disarmament issues, which is a step in the process of identifying the key remaining disarmament tasks to be completed by Iraq. The clusters will also serve as part of the reference basis in the analysis that will be undertaken of the declaration to be submitted by Iraq under resolution 1441 (2002). The draft handbook for inspectors is being revised to take account of the new authority given to the Commission in the conduct of inspections by resolution 1441 (2002). The backlog of semi-annual declarations provided by Iraq has been provisionally analysed by the Commission's experts. It is expected to prompt some inspections at sites in Iraq.

22. Logistical and other preparatory work in the area of inspection planning has been intensified. Considerable amounts of equipment, including computers, cameras and sensors, have been procured and are being transported to BOMVIC in Baghdad.

Non-inspection sources of information

23. The Senior Officer for Outside Information has continued to liaise with representatives from Member States. As noted in paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 1441 (2002), all Member States are requested to provide to UNMOVIC and IAEA any information related to prohibited programmes or other aspects of their mandates.

24. UNMOVIC has now received the results of a contract with the International French Research Institute for the review of open-source data relevant to the mandate of UNMOVIC, with particular emphasis on European, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern sources. That data is being analysed together with data from other unclassified sources, such as that collected by the Monterey Institute of International Studies on behalf of UNMOVIC. The data helps to shed further light on the reconstruction of infrastructure that was formerly used by Iraq in prohibited programmes. UNMOVIC has also received a completed set of "topic trees", which are used in computer searches for relevant open-source material.

25. Database development and the integration of data derived from Iraq's declarations, inspection reports and other sources have progressed significantly. UNMOVIC continues to receive commercial satellite imagery, which is being used to prepare for the inspections in Iraq. UNMOVIC is also exploring the possibility of acquiring data sets (such as mapping) that are derived from imagery. With the prevalence of digital sets of data, it has become increasingly easy to merge different types of data within the central database.

Export/import

26. As required under the provisions of Security Council resolution 1409 (2002), experts from UNMOVIC and IAEA have reviewed all contracts under the oil-for-food programme that were on hold at the time of the adoption of the resolution. This amounted to some 2,000 contracts, in addition to those reviewed on a daily basis. All contracts are reviewed to identify any items that are contained on the goods review list, approved by the Council in resolution 1409 (2002). That resolution also approved new procedures for the processing of oil-for-food contracts, which have been implemented. Detailed information on the implementation of the new system is contained in the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of Security Council resolution 1409 (S/2002/1239), dated 12 November 2002, and the accompanying note by the Office of the Iraq Programme (see http://www.un.org/Depts/oip).

College of Commissioners

27. On 17 October, following the resignation of Paul Schulte, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the Security Council and the Executive Chairman, appointed Bryan Wells (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as a member of the College of Commissioners. Marjatta Rautio (Finland) has also resigned. No successor has yet been appointed.

28. A special session of the College of Commissioners was held at United Nations Headquarters on 18 October. The Executive Chairman gave the Commissioners a report on the work of UNMOVIC since the last session of the College was held, in August 2002, and on the discussions held in Vienna in late September/early October, as well as on recent developments with respect to the Security Council's deliberations on Iraq.

29. The College held its eleventh regular plenary session at United Nations Headquarters on 26 November. In addition to the members of the College, the observer from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons attended.

30. The Chairman reported on developments during the period under review, in particular on his recent visit to Baghdad with the advance team. He outlined the new powers of inspection that had been conferred on UNMOVIC and IAEA by the Security Council under resolution 1441 (2002), and he shared with the College his views on how the strengthened powers of the Commission could be used.

31. The College welcomed the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1441 (2002), which provided for a strengthened inspection regime. The continued and united support of the Council for the inspection activities in Iraq was considered to be vital for the effective implementation of this and earlier resolutions concerning the disarmament of Iraq.

32. The College further welcomed the Chairman's report on his recent visit to Baghdad and his thoughts on the various ways in which the Commission would fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council. The resumption of inspections on 27 November, well in advance of the 45-day deadline set in resolution 1441 (2002), was noted. The declaration that Iraq is required to submit in early December and the role of the Commission in its analysis were discussed. The

College also discussed the media interest in the inspection process and welcomed it. At the same time, it was felt that the media presence should not be allowed in any way to interfere with the conduct of inspections.

33. It was decided to hold the next quarterly session in New York on 24 and 25 February 2003. It was further decided to hold a one-day meeting in New York on 21 January before UNMOVIC updated the Security Council as required in paragraph 5 of resolution 1441 (2002).

34. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commissioners were consulted on the contents of the present report.

Notes

[a] The Commission's 10 previous reports were issued as documents S/2000/516, S/2000/835, S/2000/1134, S/2001/177, S/2001/515, S/2001/833, S/2001/1126, S/2002/195, S/2002/606 and S/2002/981.